

D.T.E. 99-90

Petition of Cambridge Electric Light Company for approval of its Transition Charge Reconciliation Filing and the accompanying tariffs filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1A(a) and 220 C.M.R. § 11.03(4)(e) and D.P.U./D.T.E. 97-111.

APPEARANCES: John Cope-Flanagan, Esq.

NSTAR

800 Boyslton Street

Boston, MA 02199

FOR: Cambridge Electric Light Company

Petitioner

Robert Werlin, Esq.

Keegan, Werlin & Pabian, LLP

21 Custom House

Boston, Massachusetts 02110

FOR: Cambridge Electric Light Company

Petitioner

Thomas F. Reilly, Attorney General

By: Joseph W. Rogers, Assistant Attorney General

Rebecca C. Perez, Assistant Attorney General

Regulated Industries Division

Public Protection Bureau

200 Portland Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Intervenor

Steven Klionsky, Esq.

260 Franklin Street, 21st Floor

Boston, MA 02110

FOR: WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY

Limited Participant

Erica L. Tarpey, Esq.

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae

260 Franklin Street

Boston, MA 02110-3173

FOR: FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY

Limited Participant

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 27, 1999, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1A(a) and 220 C.M.R. § 11.03(4)(e) Cambridge Electric Light Company ("Cambridge" or "Company") filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") its Transition Charge Reconciliation Filing. The Company also proposed changes in charges for energy efficiency and renewables programs pursuant to G.L. c. 25, §§ 19 and 20. The Company filed proposed tariffs, effective January 1, 2000, that incorporate these proposed charges and adjustments. This filing was docketed as D.T.E. 99-90. Notice was issued to all the

participants in Cambridge Electric Light Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, and Canal Electric Company, D.T.E. 97-111 (1998), Cambridge Electric Light Company, Commonwealth Electric Company, and Canal Electric Company, D.T.E. 98-78/83 (1998).⁽¹⁾ A procedural conference was held on

November 23, 1999 and a public hearing was held on November 29, 1999.

On December 6, 1999, the Department requested comments from all electric distribution companies on the issues of distribution rate redesign and an appropriate inflation factor for rates effective January 1, 2000. The Department received responses from electric distribution companies, the Attorney General, and the Division of Energy Resources on December 9, 1999.

Upon review of these responses, on December 17, 1999, the Department sent all electric distribution companies a letter that delineated guidelines for distribution companies on distribution rate redesign and inflation adjustment in their 2000 reconciliation adjustment filings ("December 17, 1999 Letter"). In response, by letter dated December 22, 1999, Cambridge stated that no rate schedule changes would be required to comply with the Department's December 17, 1999 Letter. On December 30, 1999, the Department suspended the Company's proposed rate adjustments until January 14, 2000. Cambridge Electric Light Company/Commonwealth Electric Company, D.T.E. 99-90 (1999) (Order Suspending Tariffs).

As determined by the Department at the procedural conference on November 23, 1999, further investigation into this filing is necessary. The Department finds, however, that the tariffs filed by Cambridge on October 27, 1999 to take effect on January 1, 2000 are in compliance with the directives outlined by the Department in its December 17, 1999 Letter, and are in the public interest. The revised tariffs provide a 15 percent rate reduction for all customer classes, adjusted for inflation through June 30, 2000. Consistent with the Department's directives, the inflation adjustment will be reconciled in the Company's next reconciliation filing (December 17, 1999 Letter at 6). The transition charge is subject to reconciliation pursuant to the Department's ongoing investigation in this proceeding.

II. ORDER

After due notice, hearing, and consideration, it is

ORDERED: That the tariffs filed by Cambridge Electric Light Company with the Department on October 27, 1999, M.D.T.E. Nos. 711 through and including 727, and revised on December 22, 1999, for service on and after January 1, 2000 are ALLOWED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That the transition charge for Cambridge Electric Light Company is ALLOWED subject to reconciliation pursuant to the Department's investigation; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED: That Cambridge Electric Light Company comply with any and all other directives contained in this Order.

By Order of the Department,

Janet Gail Besser, Chair

James Connelly, Commissioner

W. Robert Keating, Commissioner

Paul B. Vasington, Commissioner

Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner

1. Western Massachusetts Electric Company and Eastern Edison Company filed motions to intervene on November 24, 1999, which were granted.